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REPORT NO: 121/874/0203

DATE: 18th December, 1962

COUNTRY: LEBANON

SUBJECT: Action Against the Arab Higher Committee of HAJ AMIN HUSSAINI

DATE OF INFORMATION: end-November 1962

SOURCE: A regular source with good access.

REMARKS:

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## ARAB AFFAIRS/LEBANON

### Political

Lebanese Action against the Arab Higher Committee of HAJJ AMIN HUSSAINI

Ref: CS-5/533,534

(end of November 1962)

(former Grand Mufti of Palestine)

1. On 27th November, the Lebanese <sup>G-2</sup> security forces raided the BEIRUT offices of the Arab Higher Committee, removed its records and arrested six of the Committee. At the same time, 18 supporters of the Committee were arrested in TRIPOLI and 2 in SIDON.
2. No reason was given by the Police for this action. The BEIRUT Committee members were interrogated after their arrest about their preparations for protests on Balfour Declaration Day, their attitude to the republican regime in the Yemen, and their relations with Syria and Iraq. All those arrested were released within thirty-six hours of the raid.
3. The Committee learned subsequently that the security forces had received reports showing that the Committee was planning a series of disturbances and assassinations directed against pro-UAR elements in the Lebanon. The Commander of the <sup>G-2</sup> security forces had proposed investigation of these charges but had been overruled by the Minister of Interior, Kamel JUMBLATT, who had demanded immediate action on the reports. JUMBLATT had also agreed, prior to the raid, to authorise the expulsion of HAJJ AMIN on the evidence which he assumed would be discovered by the raid.
4. On the day after the raid, <sup>Hussaini</sup> HAJJ AMIN, the leader of the Higher Committee, protested to President <sup>Fuad Shihab</sup> about this police action which he claimed was the result of the campaign which was being conducted by the UAR against the Committee in retaliation for the Committee's successes against the UAR-controlled Palestinian elements. <sup>Hussaini</sup> HAJJ AMIN asked for the President's intervention to protect the semi-diplomatic status which the Higher Committee had been granted in the Lebanon. The President promised to do so.

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